

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIES

1) URHO KALEVA KEKKONEN, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
FINLAND

URHO KALEVA KEKKONEN WAS BORN AT PIELAVESI, IN THE  
PROVINCE OF SAVO, ON SEPTEMBER 3RD, 1900. HE WAS MARRIED  
TO SYLVI SALOME UIINO, A WELL-KNOWN  
AUTHORESS, WHO DIED IN 1974. THE COUPLE HAD TWO CHILDREN  
IN 1928, THE TWIN BROTHERS MATTI KALEVA AND TANELI  
KALEVA.

URHO KEKKONEN RECEIVED THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF  
JURISPRUDENCE AT HELSINKI UNIVERSITY IN 1936. HE WAS  
ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT THE SAME YEAR AS AN AGRARIAN PARTY  
(NOWADAYS KNOWN AS THE CENTRE PARTY) CANDIDATE.  
IN 1936 HE ALSO BECAME MINISTER OF JUSTICE, AND SUBSEQUENTLY  
A MEMBER OF MANY GOVERNMENTS. FROM 1946 TO 1956 HE WAS A  
MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BANK OF  
FINLAND.

AMONG THE CABINET POSTS KEKKONEN HAS HELD WAS THAT OF  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (FROM 1952 TO 1953 AND IN 1954).

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HE WAS PRIME MINISTER 5 TIMES AND SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

FROM 1948 TO 1950.

DR. KEKKONEN WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IN MARCH 1956 AND RE-ELECTED IN 1962 AND 1968. HE WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL 1978 BY VIRTUE OF A SPECIAL LAW ENACTED IN 1973.

IN 1924 URHO KEKKONEN WON THE FINNISH HIGHJUMP CHAMPIONSHIP WITH A RESULT OF 6' 8" (1.85 M) AND TWO OTHER CHAMPIONSHIPS. HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE FINNISH GYMNASTICS AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION FROM 1931 TO 1947. FROM 1938 TO 1946 HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE FINNISH OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

URHO KEKKONEN HAS PUBLISHED SEVERAL BOOKS ON POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL SUBJECTS, AND COLLECTIONS OF HIS SPEECHES HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO SEVERAL LANGUAGES. AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HE HAS PAID STATE OR OFFICIAL VISITS TO SWEDEN, ICELAND, DENMARK, NORW6, THE SOVIET UNION, AUSTRIA, CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE, YUGOSLAVIA, POLAND, ROMANIA, HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, INDIA, TUNISIA, THE UAR, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, GREAT BRITAIN, ITALY, THE VATICAN, TURKEY AND THE NETHERLANDS.

FOR ALMOST TWENTY YEARS PRESIDENT URHO KEKKONEN HAS CONDUCTED THE FOREIGN POLICY OF A COUNTRY WHERE THE CONSTITUTION INVESTS THE PRESIDENCY WITH EXTENSIVE POWERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONDUCT OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY. IT HAS BEEN CHARACTERISTIC OF HIS STRGNG PERSONALITY TO DRAW HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS AS TO WHAT PREROGATIVES THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT POSSESSES TO DEAL WITH FOREIGN RELATIONS, A CONCERN THAT THE FUNNS HOLD FOREMOST TO THEIR NATIONAL SURVIVAL. THE AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT KEKKONEN HAS BECOME UNDISPUTED AS THE LEADER OF FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY. THE FINNISH PEOPLE HAVE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO RELYING FULLY ON HIS JUDGMENT, HIS EXPERIENCE, AND HIS SKILL. MEANWHILE, URHO KEKKONEN HAS UNDERGONE A CONSIDERABLE METAMORPHOSIS FROM THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL POLITICIAN OF THE 1950'S TO THE PATER PATRIAE OF THE 1970'S. ONLY A FEW LIVING EUROPEAN STATESMEN HAVE HAD A COMPARABLE POLITICAL CAREER. SMALL WONDER THEN, THAT THE NAME OF UNCLASSIFIED

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URHO KEKKONEN HAS COME TO SYMBOLIZE FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY THE WORLD OVER.

URHO KEKKONEN'S PHILOSOPHY ON THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY HAS NEVER RESTED ON DOCTRINAIRE, THEORETICAL CANONS. RATHER, THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY AND POLITICS GENERALLY, AS HE SEES IT, SHOULD BE BASED ON REALISM - ON AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEX FACTORS THAT SHAPE EVENTS. THE PRESIDENT, WHO

WILL BE 75 IN SEPTEMBER, HAS EXPERIENCED A LONG PROCESS OF PERSONAL REASSESSMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. THE ROOTS OF THIS PROCESS GO BACK A HALF CENTURY, TO THE 1920'S WHEN HE WAS AN ACTIVE UNIVERSITY STUDENT POLITICIAN. THIS PROCESS CONTINUED WHILE HE SERVED IN THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE 1930'S. IT WAS SEVERELY TESTED BY THE CRISES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND IT REACHED MATURITY DURING THE POST-WAR YEARS WHEN IT BECAME NECESSARY TO SECURE THE INDEPENDENCE OF FINLAND UNDER RADICALLY DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

PRESIDENT KEKKONEN HAS HAD TO LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE TO ADJUST HIS FOREIGN POLICY THINKING AS WELL AS METHODS TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. AN IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTIC OF HIS POLITICAL PSYCHE HAS BEEN HIS ABILITY TO ACCEPT NEW IDEAS AND TO CHANGE. THIS ABILITY HAS PERHAPS BEST MANIFESTED ITSELF IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY. TIME AND TIME AGAIN PRESIDENT KEKKONEN HAS SURPRISED HIS POLITICAL OBSERVERS WITH HIS ABILITY TO EXPLOIT CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. HIS CRITICS HAVE LABELED THIS OPPORTUNISM. KEKKONEN'S ANSWER TO SUCH CHARGES HAS BEEN: "SINCE WHEN HAS IT BEEN WRONG FOR A PERSON TO GROW WISER?"

2) PRIME MINISTER KEIJO LIINAMAA

MR. KEIJO LIINAMAA (46), A SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT IN THE LABOR MINISTRY, HEADS THE NEW CARETAKER CABINET APPOINTED ON JUNE 13, 1975. IT IS THE 57TH GOVT IN THE HISTORY OF INDEPENDENT FINLAND, AND THE NINTH CARETAKER CABINET. ALTHOUGH THE CABINET HAS A CERTAIN POLITICAL COLORING, "THE AIM HAS BEEN TO APPOINT TO THE MINISTERIAL POSTS PERSONS WHO ARE ABLE TO DISCHARGE THESE DUTIES MOST EFFICACIOUSLY", MR. LIINAMAA SAID WHEN THE NEW GOVT PAID ITS FIRST FORMAL CALL AT THE PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE

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AT TAMMINIEMI. THE PRIME MINISTER, HIMSELF A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, IS PERSUASIVE EVIDENCE OF THESE WORDS. AFTER SERVING AS THE LEGAL SECRETARY OF THE CONFEDERATION OF FINNISH TRADE UNIONS IN 1955-58 AND THE TOWN MANAGER OF MANTTA IN 1958-65, KEIJO LIINAMAA WAS NOMINATED AS THE STATE LABOR CONFLICT MEDIATOR IN 1965. FIVE YEARS LATER HE BECAME THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT IN THE LABOR MINISTRY. IN THE EARLY 1970'S HE BECAME A FAMILIAR FIGURE FOR THE PUBLIC AS THE LEADER OF NATIONAL INCOME POLICY NEGOTIATIONS, GIVING HIS NAME TO A NUMBER OF CENTRALIZED INCOME POLICY AGREEMENTS. IN THIS IMPORTANT BUT DEMANDING POST HE ESTABLISHED HIS IMAGE AS THE EMBODIMENT OF DELIBERATION, CONSISTENCE AND CALM OBJECTIVITY. HE IS ALSO A VETERAN OF CABINET RESPONSIBILITIES. IN THE 1970 AURA CABINET HE SERVED

AS THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND THE SECOND MINISTER OF  
FINANCE. HE WAS ALSO APPOINTED AS THE LABOR MINISTER  
IN THE SECOND AURA CABINET IN 1971-72. LIINAMAA  
VISITED THE UNITED STATES FOR SIX WEEKS IN 1965.  
KEIJO LIINAMAA AND HIS WIFE PIRKKO, MARRIED SINCE 1955,  
HAVE FOUR CHILDREN: JUKKA, TIINA, MINNA, AND ILKKA.  
MUSIC IS A HOBBY THE WHOLE FAMILY LIKES, AND THE  
PRIME MINISTER IS ALSO KEEN ON SPORTS.  
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